

*Oral Questions***LOBBYING**

PREPARATION OF LEGISLATION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. On September 9 the Prime Minister promised the following in a document which he sent to my office:

I have accordingly asked my colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, to prepare, on an urgent basis, legislation to govern lobbying activity.

Could the Prime Minister tell the House what forced him to break yet another promise to the Canadian people?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post): In answer to that question, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that we have quite simply decided to give the matter more consideration, and we hope that Canadians generally will indeed express their views. It would certainly be more constructive if the Hon. Member were to voice his representations before the parliamentary committee instead of indulging in cheap criticisms.

ALLEGED PRESSURE EXERTED BY LOBBYISTS—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In an interview yesterday the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs admitted that lobbyists had brought pressure to bear on him with respect to this matter. Can he tell us today who were those lobbyists who used such pressure tactics? Can he name them and, more particularly, can he tell us why he listened to them, contrary to the advice of his leader?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post): Mr. Speaker, we believe that the impact of regulations on lobbyists and lobbying deserves more consideration and public airing, which is why we made that decision.

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[*English*]

SOCIAL SECURITY

REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF BILL C-70

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister; I hope he will answer it. In the spirit of Christmas, and as a gift to the kids of the country, will he now withdraw Bill C-70, a Bill to deindex family allowances?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the best gift that any Government can try to give to the

kids of the country is jobs and a sound economy, and that is what we are doing.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: We are going to take that mountain of debt off the backs of the children of the country, which was being placed there by you and your Liberal friends.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: We are finally going to give the kids of the country an equal chance for some growth and prosperity and new jobs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

REQUEST THAT LEGISLATION BE WITHDRAWN

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, we have heard enough rhetoric.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Sit down!

Mr. Nystrom: I would like an answer to the question. Will he or will he not withdraw Bill C-70? Why chisel on the children of the country? Will he or will he not withdraw that Bill? I want an answer.

● (1150)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will allow the answer in this case. May I remind the Hon. Member that there are several Hon. Members of his own Party who are rising to ask questions. I will therefore allow this to be the last time that simple question is asked.

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as you indicated, it is the same question, and the same answer applies.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL MAILED TO CHILDREN

Mr. Sid Fraleigh (Lambton-Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for Canada Post. I know it is the time of year for the giving and receiving of gifts, but a 13-year-old boy from my riding recently received an unsolicited catalogue from a film distribution company based in Canada. The material, or trash, contained in the brochure was, in my opinion, of an explicit, pornographic nature and entirely unsuitable for a minor, particularly one as young as 13 years old. Can the Minister tell the House how this type of material can be sent through our postal system to a 13-year-old boy, and what steps the Government is taking to prevent this type of occurrence?